

State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE CLAIRE L. JANOWSKI

FIFTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

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CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE & LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER

HIGHER EDUCATION & EMPLOYEE ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE HEARING 2/27/13
HB 6004: AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR THE UNINSURED AT COMMUNITY HOSPITALS

GOOD MORNING REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON, SENATOR GERRATANA AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE. I AM REPRESENTATIVE CLAIRE JANOWSKI FROM THE 56TH DISTRICT OF VERNON & ROCKVILLE.

I AM PLEASED TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF BILL HB 6004. AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR THE UNINSURED AT COMMUNITY HOSPITALS. AS AN INTRODUCER OF THIS BILL, I AM HERE TO TESTIFY IN SUPPORT OF RESTORING FUNDING TO HOSPITALS TO CONTINUE PROVIDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR THE UNINSURED. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THIS FUNDING HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO BE CUT IN THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL.

I BELIEVE THE CUTS WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR HARM TO SMALL COMMLUNITY HOSPITALS LIKE THE ONE IN MY DISTRICT AND UNDERMINE THE IMPORTANT AND VITAL SERVICES THAT MANY COMMUNITY HOSPITALS PROVIDE FOR THE POOR AND FAMILIES AT RISK WHO CONTINUE TO USE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL SERVICES FOR THEIR HEALTH CARE NEEDS.

THE LOSS OF FUNDING WILL ONLY ADD TO THE FINANCIAL INSTABILITY OF LOCAL COMMUNITY HOSPITALS RESULTING IN JOB LOSSES AND POTENTIAL CLOSURES ADDING NEGATIVELY TO THE ALREADY FRAGILE LOCAL ECONOMY.

I URGE YOUR SUPPORT IN ENSURING THAT THIS FUNDING CONTINUES AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.